

## The Washington Merry-Go-Round

# Curtain Exiles Plan Trade Union

By Drew Pearson

ONE OF THE MOST important steps looking toward the eventual liberation of Iron Curtain countries has been started quietly by a little group of exiles in the United States in cooperation with Radio Free Europe.

Nine committees from the nine satellite countries have been set up to study ways by which the Iron Curtain areas eventually can become part of Free Europe. Among other things, they are studying plans to make the satellite areas economically sound, once they are able to cut away from the Iron Curtain.

What many Americans don't realize is that the smaller countries—Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Romania, etc.—cannot exist economically when independent. Actually, their union under Russia has potentialities for improvement from the economic point of view. For the Russian plan is similar to their union under the old Austro-Hungarian Empire, which pooled most of these countries into one big economic entity.

With the end of World War I, the Austro-Hungarian Empire was chopped up in pieces. Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, Poland and the others gained their political liberty, but they lost their economic liberty. Tariff barriers, competing industries, railroad lines that were cut in two by new borders, and rail lines that went nowhere, all skidded them down the road to economic ruin.

That was why these bankrupt, economically helpless areas were gobbled up by Hitler. And after Hitler, they were gobbled up by Russia.

### U. S. of East Europe

TODAY, THE PEOPLE living in these areas want economic security just as much as they want political security. Though the Czechs, Poles, Hungarians, et al, are not

happy under Russian rule, many also admit they wouldn't be much happier on their own. They would soon head back to bankruptcy.

What they need is an economic union similar to the old Austro-Hungarian set-up, giving them economic independence; yet at the same time giving them personal and political freedom.

That's the idea Stefan Osusky, former Czech Minister to France, long an exile in the United States, has been selling Washington for a long time. Finally, he put the idea across with C. D. Jackson, alert White House adviser on psychological warfare, who in turn encouraged the National Committee for Free Europe to help organize nine different committees.

The nine satellite countries comprising these committees are Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania. The different committees will study political questions, iron and steel, transportation, public welfare, defense, East-West trade, and labor problems.

News that the nine committees have been organized, broadcast behind the Iron Curtain by the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe, has caused important reaction at a time when the satellites are already restless.

### Henry Wallace Back? ?

A WILD RUMOR that Henry Wallace had returned to the Commerce Department sent a reporter scurrying through the corridors for verification. The reporter scented an important scoop. Sure enough, it developed that "Henry Wallace" had his name on the door of a top office.

Further inquiry, however, revealed it to be Henry J. Wallace, assistant administrator of the business and defense services division, not Henry A. Wallace, former Vice President, Agriculture Secretary and Commerce Secretary.

Aside from the similarity in names, the two Wallaces are as different as night and day.

Henry J., a 45-year-old former vice president of U. S. Steel, is a staunch Republican of conservative leanings, who signs his name "H. J. Wallace" so there won't be any confusion with his namesake.

### Dulles' Word Change

SECRETARY OF STATE Dulles tried to put over something which hasn't been tried at a State Department or White House press conference for a long time—changing the text of what he said after he had said it.

At last week's press conference, Dulles agreed with Vice President Nixon that the disarming of Japan was a mistake. He went on to explain that, at the time, those in charge of American foreign policy naturally assumed the world was entering a period of peace, and he added—"as many of us did."

For Dulles to include himself among those to blame for the mistake of disarming Japan was not only truthful but natural, because everyone knew Dulles was the author of the Japanese peace treaty under the Truman Administration.

When the press conference notes were typed up, however, the words "as many of us did" were carefully omitted. In other words, Dulles eliminated himself from those making the mistake of disarming Japan.

Newsmen, spotting the omission, protested that the press conference notes had been censored, apparently for the purpose of protecting Dulles. In the end, the words "as many of us did" were put back into the written record.

Note — A press conference transcript always goes to the Secretary of State personally for review before being issued to the press.

### Merry-Go-Round

THE CUT-RATE airplane trip taken by assistants to Congressmen, which some people got aroused about the other day, turns out to have been an Eastern Airlines "happy holiday," available to any and all comers; whether congressional assistants or not.

Eastern has worked out a tourist rate whereby you can fly to Florida in the off-season

for \$109.54 round trip, including hotel, compared with the regular-fare express service between Washington and Miami of \$138.35. It's available to anyone, in the Government or out.

General Services Administration Edmund Mansure was hotly berated as a "bureaucrat" when he rejected, on a technicality, a \$1,116,000 bid last September for an abandoned postoffice property in Newark, N. J. However, conscientious Mansure had the last laugh when he recently readvertised the property and got an offer \$35,500 higher.

Commented Mansure: "However much we try to avoid controversy in dealings with the public, in this case it seems to have been an ill wind that blew some good to the Government and taxpayers."

The Hoover Commission gained a crack chief consultant when Russell Forbes resigned as deputy boss of the General Services Administration. Forbes will work with a task force delving into the use and disposal of surplus property.

At the first concert of the Commerce Department Band, Secretary Sinclair Weeks surprised the audience by announcing that Assistant Secretary Lothair Teetor "also plays a hot trumpet." Teetor played with the band of the U. S. S. Pennsylvania during World War I, later was offered a job by John Philip Sousa, but turned it down.